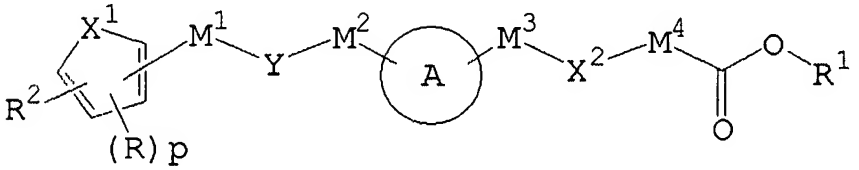
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

p is 0, 1 or 2, and when p is 2, each R may be the same or different,

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene~~, an optionally substituted oxazole, an optionally substituted thiazole, an optionally substituted benzothiophen, an optionally substituted benzofuran or an optionally substituted indazole~~,

X^1 is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X^2 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_n-$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, $-S(O)_m-$, $-C(=O)-N(R^3)-$ or $-N(R^3)-C(=O)-$ and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M^1, and M^2 ~~and M^3~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, M^3 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group and M^4 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_m-$, M^1 is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond and one of M^1 and M^2 is a bond, the other of M^1 and M^2 is neither a bond nor methylene~~, and (3) 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-~~

~~3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded~~.

2. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted aralkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl or an optionally substituted aryl.

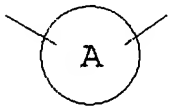
3. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein p is 1.

4. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom.

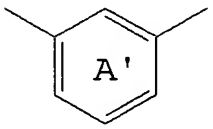
5. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R^2 is an optionally substituted phenyl.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein the formula:



is the formula:



wherein Ring A' is an optionally further substituted benzene ring.

10. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein X^1 is an oxygen atom.

11. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein X^2 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

12. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein Y is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

13. (Previously presented) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein Y is -C(=O)-$N(R^3)$-, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and the carbon atom is bonded to M^1, and the nitrogen atom to M^2.

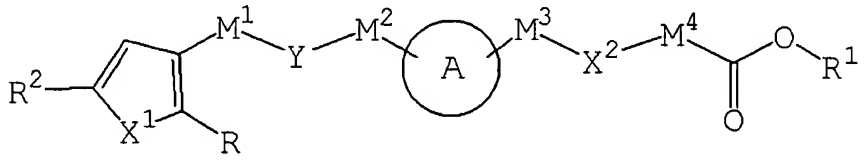
14. (Original) The compound according to the claim 13, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl, an optionally substituted aralkyl, an optionally substituted cycloalkyl or an optionally substituted aryl.

15. (Original) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein M^1 is an alkylene having 3 or more carbon atoms.

16. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein M^1 and, M^2 ~~and M^3~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond, an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, M^3 is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, and M^4 is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein the formula (I) is



(I')

wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene~~, an optionally substituted oxazole, an optionally substituted thiazole, an optionally substituted benzothiophen, an optionally substituted benzofuran or an optionally substituted indazole~~,

X^1 is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X^2 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_n-$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

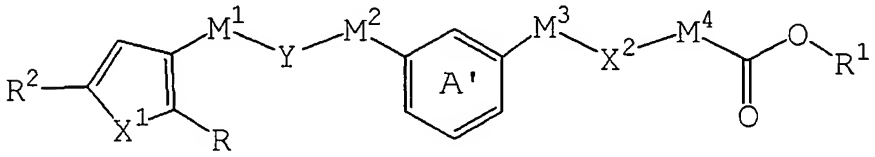
Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, $-S(O)_m-$, $-C(=O)-N(R^3)-$ or $-N(R^3)-C(=O)-$ and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M^1, and M^2 ~~and M^3~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, M^3 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and M^4 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_m-$, M^1 is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond and one of M^1 and M^2 is a bond, the other of M^1 and M^2 is neither a bond nor methylene~~, and (3) 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded~~.

19. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 18, wherein the formula (I') is



(I'')

wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A' is an optionally further substituted benzene ring,

X^1 is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X^2 is ~~a bond,~~ an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_n-$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, $-S(O)_m-$, $-C(=O)-N(R^3)-$ or $-N(R^3)-C(=O)-$ and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

M^1, and M^2 ~~and M^3~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, M^3 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and M^4 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

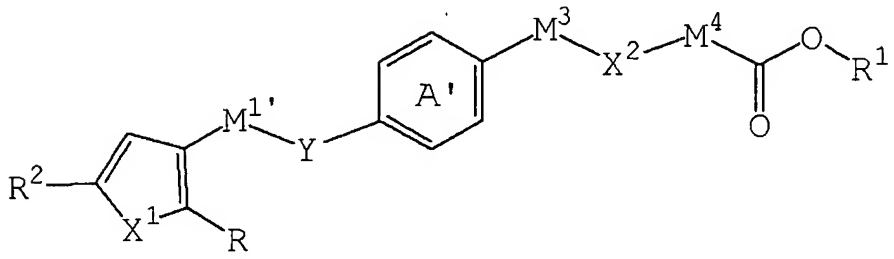
provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_m-$, M^1 is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond and one of M^1 and M^2 is a bond, the other of M^1 and M^2 is neither a bond nor methylene~~, and (3) 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded~~.

20. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 19, wherein X^1 is an oxygen atom, X^2 is an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_n-$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, Y is an oxygen atom, M^1 is an optionally substituted C_{1-3} alkylene, M^2 is a bond, M^3 is ~~a bond or~~ an optionally substituted methylene, and M^4 is an optionally substituted methylene.

21. (Original) The compound according to the claim 20, wherein M^1 and M^3 may be the same or different and are each independently an optionally substituted methylene.

22-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 18, wherein the formula (I') is



(I''')

wherein

R is an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

R^1 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group,

R^2 is an optionally substituted aromatic group,

Ring A' is an optionally further substituted benzene ring,

X^1 is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom,

X^2 is ~~a bond, an~~ an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_n-$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,

Y is a bond, an oxygen atom, $-S(O)_m-$, $-C(=O)-N(R^3)-$ or $-N(R^3)-C(=O)-$ and R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, and m is 0, 1 or 2,

$M^{1'}$ is an alkylene group having 3 or more carbon atoms,

M^3 is ~~a bond or~~ an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group, and

M^4 is an optionally substituted divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group,

or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof,

provided that (1) when Y is an oxygen atom or $-S(O)_m-$, $M^{1'}$ is not a bond, and (2) when Y is a bond $M^{1'}$ is neither a bond nor methylene~~, and (3) 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid, 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid, 5-[[4-[(1Z)-2-carboxy-2-chloroethenyl]benzoyl]amino]-3-phenyl-2-thiophenecarboxylic acid, 3-[3-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]phenyl]-2-propenoic acid and 4-[[(2-methyl-5-phenyl-3-furanyl)carbonyl]amino]benzeneacetic acid are excluded~~.

27. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl group, p is 0 or 1, R^1 is a hydrogen atom, R^2 is an optionally substituted phenyl group, Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene ring~~ or an optionally~~

~~substituted thiazole ring~~, X^1 is an oxygen atom, X^2 is ~~a bond or~~ an oxygen atom, Y is an oxygen atom or -C(=O)-N(R^3)-, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, alkyl or aralkyl, and the carbon atom is bonded to M^1, and the nitrogen atom to M^2, M^1, and M^2 ~~and M^3~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or alkylene, M^3 is alkylene, and M^4 is alkylene.

28. (Currently amended) The compound according to the claim 1, wherein R is an optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or cycloalkyl group, p is 0 or 1, R^1 is a hydrogen atom, R^2 is an optionally substituted phenyl group, Ring A is an optionally substituted benzene ring ~~or an optionally substituted thiazole ring~~, X^1 is an oxygen atom, X^2 is ~~a bond or~~ -$S(O)_n$-, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, Y is an oxygen atom or -C(=O)-N(R^3)-, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, alkyl or aralkyl, and the carbon atom is bonded to M^1, and the nitrogen atom to M^2, M^1, and M^2 ~~and M^3~~ may be the same or different and are each independently a bond or alkylene, M^3 is alkylene, and M^4 is alkylene.

29. (Original) A prodrug of the compound according to the claim 1.

30. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical medicine composition comprising the compound according to the claim 1 or a prodrug thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

31. (Original) An agent of regulating nuclear receptor PPAR comprising the compound according to the claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) The agent according to the claim 31, which is a therapeutic agent forlipid metabolism abnormality or sequelae thereof, arteriosclerotic disease or sequelae thereof, diabetes mellitus, or impaired glucose tolerance.

34. (Original) The medicine according to the claim 30, which is an agent of raising high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, an agent of lowering triglyceride, an agent of lowering low-density lipoprotein cholesterol or an agent of suppressing progress of arteriosclerotic plaque.

35. (Original) An agent of regulating GPR40 receptor function comprising the compound according to the claim 1 or a prodrug thereof.

36. (Original) The agent according to the claim 35, which is an agent of regulating insulin secretion, an agent of lowering blood glucose or an agent of protecting pancreatic β cell.

37. (Previously presented) The agent according to the claim 35, which is a therapeutic agent for diabetes mellitus, glucose intolerance, diabetic neuropathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy, hyperlipidemia, arteriosclerosis, obesity, hypoglycaemia, insulin resistant syndrome, unstable diabetes mellitus, or insulin allergy.

38-51. (Cancelled)